

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming method comprising:
  - a charging step of charging a surface of a latent image holding member;
  - a latent image forming step of forming an electrostatic latent image on the surface of the latent image holding member;
  - a developing step of forming a toner image on the surface of the latent image holding member by using a developer;
  - a transfer step of transferring the toner image formed on the surface of the latent image holding member to a surface of a receiving member; ~~and~~  
a toner band forming step of forming a toner band on the surface of the latent image holding member to attain a recycled toner ratio; and
  - a cleaning step of recovering remaining toner on the surface of the latent image holding member as recycled toner,
  - wherein the recycled toner is supplied to the developer as a part of supply toner, and ~~a~~the ratio of the recycled toner to a total amount of the supply toner supplied to the developer is 15% by weight or greater.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently Amended) The image forming method of ~~claim 2,~~claim 1, wherein the toner band is formed once per from 10 to 200 printed sheets of an A4 size image.
4. (Currently Amended) The image forming method of ~~claim 2,~~claim 1, wherein the toner band has a length of from 0.5 mm to 20 mm in a direction of rotation of the latent image holding member and has an image density of from 30% to 100%.

5. (Original) The image forming method of claim 1, wherein blade cleaning is carried out in the cleaning step.

6. (Original) The image forming method of claim 1, further comprising a fixing step of fixing the toner image transferred to the surface of the receiving member with heat, wherein a releasing liquid is not supplied to a surface of a fixing member in the fixing step.

7. (Original) The image forming method of claim 1, wherein the recycled toner is added to the supply toner in a ratio of 20% by weight or greater to the total amount of the supply toner.

8. (Original) The image forming method of claim 1, wherein the toner has a shape factor SF1 of from 100 to 140, the SF1 being calculated according to the following equation:

$$SF1 = (ML^2/A) \times (\pi/4) \times 100$$

wherein ML represents a maximum length of a toner particle, and A represents a projected area of the toner particle.

9. (Original) The image forming method of claim 8, wherein the toner has the SF1 of from 110 to 135.

10. (Original) The image forming method of claim 1, wherein the toner contains a releasing agent.

11. (Original) The image forming method of claim 1, wherein the developer is a two-component developer comprising a carrier and a toner, and the toner is a non-magnetic toner.

12. (Original) The image forming method of claim 11, wherein the carrier has a resin layer on a surface thereof.

13. (Original) The image forming method of claim 1, wherein the toner has at least one of an inorganic powder and a resin powder on a surface thereof.

14. (Original) The image forming method of claim 1, wherein the developer is a two-component developer comprising a carrier and a toner, and the carrier is a resin coated carrier which has a resin coating layer on a surface of a core material.

15. (Original) The image forming method of claim 14, wherein the resin coated carrier contains a conductive material dispersed in the resin layer.

16. (Original) The image forming method of claim 14, wherein the resin layer has an average thickness of from 0.1 to 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .

17. (Original) The image forming method of claim 1, wherein the developer is a two-component developer comprising a carrier and a toner, and the carrier has a volume resistivity in a range of  $10^6 \Omega\cdot\text{cm}$  to  $10^{14} \Omega\cdot\text{cm}$  provided that a developing contrast potential is from  $10^3 \text{ V/cm}$  to  $10^4 \text{ V/cm}$ .

18. (Original) The image forming method of claim 1, wherein the latent image holding member has a surface layer that contains a crosslinked resin having a siloxane bond.

19. (New) The image forming method of claim 1, wherein the toner band forming step is carried out when a usual image formation is suspended.

20. (New) The image forming method of claim 19, wherein the toner band forming step is carried out during the time when no recording paper is supplied between an image forming cycle and the next image forming cycle.